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RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF HEALTH OFFICERS.

The following resolutions were adopted at the sixteenth annual conference of State and Territorial health authorities with the United States Public Health Service held in Washington, D. C., on June 3 and 4, 1918:

Rural Sanitation—Federal Aid Extension.

Whereas the advancement of rural sanitation is urgently necessary for the conservation of the health and strength of this Nation; and

Whereas the need of rural sanitation imposes an obligation alike on National, State, and local rural governments; and

Whereas the principle of Federal aid extension is admirably designed to meet obligations common to National, State, and local governments; and

Whereas the principle of Federal aid extension has already been established and is now being applied in several departments of our National Government; and

Whereas the measures carried out under the Federal aid extension laws for improving rural conditions have proved highly effective and popular to all concerned: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the sixteenth annual conference of State and Territorial health authorities with the United States Public Health Service indorses the principle of Federal aid extension as the best means for the coordination of and making effective the work of the National, State, and local rural governments for the advancement of rural sanitation; and be it further

Resolved, That this conference respectfully urge the United States Public Health Service to take such steps as to secure the necessary suitable Federal legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That the State health organizations represented in this conference pledge their active support to the United States Public Health Service in the efforts to secure the aforesaid legislation.

Safeguarding the Health of Industrial Workers.

Whereas the need for the conservation of man power makes it imperative to safeguard the health of the industrial army; and

Whereas adequate measures to this end are a major problem in public health, involving the cooperation of the Federal Government with State and local health and labor authorities; and

Whereas the Public Health Service is the civil executive branch of the Federal Government dealing with the public health: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the members of this conference of State and Territorial health officers with the Public Health Service advocate that a Federal system of supervision of the health of war industrial centers be established by cooperation of the Public Health Service with State and local health and labor authorities and that the necessary executive authorization be obtained in order effectively to bring this about.

Vaccination Against Smallpox.

Whereas the safeguarding of public health is one of the chief functions of governments; and

Whereas vaccination against smallpox is recognized as the only method of controlling and eradicating this disease: Therefore be it

Resolved, By the Sixteenth Annual Conference of State and Territorial Health Authorities with the United States Public Health Service at Washington, that the State of Arkansas, through its governor, Hon. Chas. H. Brough, be congratulated on having a compulsory vaccination law sustained and further commend the supreme court for interpreting the law on broad principles which affect the general welfare of the Commonwealth.

Control of Venereal Disease.

Whereas it is universally recognized that venereal diseases constitute the chief menace to the health of the military forces, incapacitating more men for duty than wounds received in action, and furthermore because of the universal recognition of the following facts:

1. These diseases have their chief source of origin within the civilian population from which the military forces are drawn.

2. The conservation of the health of the civilian population is primarily a function for the supervision of the State health officials acting in cooperation with the United States Public Health Service.

3. The machinery for the control of venereal diseases is seriously handicapped both on account of insufficient funds and proper law for coordinating the State health functions with those exercised by the United States Public Health Service.

4. The Chamberlain-Kahn bill, known as Senate bill 4608 and House bill 12258, appears to embody all the features essential for

the successful solution of the venereal disease problem in the civilian population as well as to render necessary aid to the Surgeons General of the Army and Navy in combating such diseases among the military forces: Therefore be it

Resolved, in view of the foregoing facts, That the Sixteenth Conference of the State and Territorial Health Officials with the United States Public Health Service places itself on record as indorsing the principle of the above-mentioned bill.

Committee on Sanitary Disposal of Human Excreta.

Resolved, That the Sixteenth Annual Conference of State and Territorial Health Authorities with the United States Public Health Service respectfully recommends the appointment by the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service of a committee for a study of the problem of sanitary disposal of human excreta in unsewered communities.

Resolved, further, That the said committee should be composed of members with such training and experience as will enable them to conduct practical studies of the problem from a biological, chemical, and engineering standpoint, with a definite view to the preparation of plans and specifications for standard types of closets suitable to the variety of economic, geologic, and climatic conditions of this country.

And resolved further, That the committee consider and report upon the practicability of model State legislation encouraging the extensive adoption of the standard types of closets agreed upon.

Loss of Personnel from State and Local Health Organizations.

Be it resolved, That the United States Public Health Service ascertain by questionnaire the number of public-health workers in the employ of the States that have left for Federal service and the number of workers that probably will be lost in the next few months, the results thus obtained to be submitted to the proper authorities, to the end that a statement be forthcoming as to the attitude of the Federal authorities on this question of depletion of State health organizations.

Whereas the demands of the military and naval services of the United States upon the medical profession, upon sanitary engineers, and upon graduate nurses have depleted the numbers of persons engaged in such callings and thereby seriously impaired the efficiency of many of the State and local sanitary organizations, and threaten further impairment and even disintegration of some of them; and

Whereas such harm as has already been done can be repaired and disaster averted only by the wisest possible distribution of such

future demands as may be made by the military and naval forces upon the physicians, sanitary engineers, and nurses among the various sources of supply from which services of these kinds are ordinarily obtained; and

Whereas the maintenance of the efficiency of the Federal, State, and local health agencies, to the end that the health of the people may be conserved and promoted, is a necessary and important element in the war program: Be it

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the chairman to confer with the committee on sanitary policy under war conditions of the Conference of State and Provincial Boards of Health of North America, and that this be made a special order of business at 2.30 p. m., June 5.

DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTY HEALTH WORK.¹

By K. E. MILLER, Assistant Surgeon, United States Public Health Service.

A discussion of county health work must be somewhat specific if it is to be intelligible, because the 3,000 counties of the United States vary widely in size, population, altitude, climate, wealth, and pursuits. Since we are met here as health officers of North Carolina, this discussion, although quite applicable to county health work in general, will endeavor to adapt itself particularly to the average county of this State. This county will be about 600 square miles in size, will have a population of about 30,000, with a notable proportion of negroes, will be economically prosperous but not rich, and will be distinctly rural.

In attacking the county health problem a sharp distinction between rural and municipal conditions must be drawn. In a city of 30,000 population the area covered is perhaps from 10 to 15 square miles, whereas the area may be 600 square miles in a county of similar population. While disease incidence in rural districts is lessened somewhat by the comparative lack of personal contact, the administrative difficulties are multiplied enormously by the area over which the health officer must work, the bad or impassable roads during certain months of the year, the lack of sanitary inspectors, policemen, and nurses, and the fact that rural people are not so accustomed to rules and regulations and are therefore harder to control. Thus, rural health administration requires special training. While I do not wish to discount the value of the special instruction for health officers given by the medical schools, I do wish to say that not one of the courses is conducted from the standpoint of rural needs and con-

¹ Read before the meeting of the North Carolina Health Officers' Association, Pinehurst, N. C., April 15, 1918.